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ANNUAL REPORT
ON THE HEALTH
OF THE
COWES URBAN DISTRICT

BY
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ISLE OF WIGHT:
JACOBS, PEATES AND CO., LTD., PRINTERS, NEWPORT.

1946.

COUNTY HALL,
NEWPORT, I.W.

July, 1946.

To the Members of the Cowes Urban District Council :—

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report on the health of the District for the year 1945.

The birth rate for the year was the same as for 1944, the death rate 1 per 1000 lower and the infantile mortality rate at 21'1 per 1000 live births is exceptionally low.

The number of notifications of infectious diseases was lower than in 1944, but Scarlet Fever and Measles both showed increases.

There is nothing of importance to which I wish to call your attention except to the crying need for houses.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

W. S. WALLACE,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area in acres	5542
No. of inhabited houses (per rate books)	5356
Rateable value	£111,932
Sum represented by a penny rate	£416

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

These are unchanged since the last report.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

Population (Registrar General's Figures)	14,700
Live birth rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population	19'3
Still birth rate per 1000 total (live and still) births	34.0
Death rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population	12'99
Puerperal death rate per 1000 total (live and still) births	3'4

Infantile Mortality :—

All infants per 1000 live births	21'1
Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate births	22.9
Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate births	Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	32
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	Nil

BIRTHS.

The total number of live births was 284, giving a live birth rate per 1000 living of 19'3. The corresponding rate for England and Wales being 16'1.

DEATHS.

The number of deaths was 191 giving a death rate of 12'99 per 1000 of the estimated resident population. The corresponding rate for England and Wales was 11'4.

INFANT MORTALITY.

The Infant Mortality rate was 21·1 per 1000 registered live births, the rate for England and Wales being 46·0.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLY.

The supplies in both East and West Cowes were continuous throughout the year. In the higher parts of Northwood many complaints were received of inadequate pressure and houses without storage tanks were often without water during parts of the day. Even during the night hours there was sometimes insufficient pressure to fill storage tanks in upper floors of some of the houses.

In East Cowes the supply is partly from a deep well and partly from the Newport supply. Quarterly analyses of the raw and treated waters showed on every occasion freedom from any form of pollution.

In West Cowes the supply is partly from a deep well, partly a surface supply from land drained water into large open reservoirs, and partly from Newport.

The raw water from the deep well on two occasions showed a negligible degree of pollution of *Coli Aerogenes* bacteria of surface soil type, but the treated water was found to show no evidence of harmful pollution.

The surface water in the open reservoirs, as was to be expected, showed varying degrees of pollution with *Coli Aerogenes* organisms both surface soil and faecal types. This water is passed through pressure sand filters and then chlorinated and after this treatment samples taken were invariably found to show no evidence of harmful pollution.

SECTION D. HOUSING.

Two-hundred and thirty-six houses were inspected under the Public Health and Housing Acts and as a result 197 houses were found not reasonably fit for human habitation.

Two-hundred and two defective dwelling houses were rendered fit as the result of informal action.

SECTION E. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

All animals are now slaughtered at Government controlled Slaughter Houses in Newport, Ryde or Wroxall.

When carcasses and offal arrive at Allocation Centre, weekly inspection is again carried out before being passed on to local butchers.

UNSOUND FOOD.

The following table shows the amount of unsound food dealt with during the year : —

Hind Quarter Beef Unsound ...	...	...	475 lbs.
Chilled Beef	„	...	251 „
Pork	„	...	243 „
Bacon	„	...	314 $\frac{3}{4}$ „
Eggs	„	...	1,251
Butter	„	...	27 lbs.
Margarine	„	...	39 „
Tea	„	...	83 „
Cheese	„	...	18 $\frac{1}{4}$ „
Rolled Oats	„	...	115 „
Biscuits	„	...	82 $\frac{1}{4}$ „
Fish Cakes	„	...	56 „
Semolina	„	...	8 „
Barley	„	...	1 cwt.
Peas	„	...	1 „
Meal	„	...	1 „

Macaroni	Unsound	...	...	...	58 lbs.
Pork Sausage Meat	„	...	...	...	49 „
Bream Fillets	„	...	...	...	6 stone
Flour	„	...	...	...	21 lbs.
Corned Beef	„	...	...	...	1,206 $\frac{1}{4}$ „
Tinned Luncheon Meat	„	...	...	...	109 „

In addition, 743 tins containing fish, meat, fruit, etc., weighing 863 lbs. were found to be unsound.

All the above was taken to Newport to be used for the manufacture of artificial manure for the Ministry of Food.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

There were 128 notifications of infectious diseases, 39 being of Scarlet Fever and 80 of Measles. There were no cases of Diphtheria, indeed no notification of this killing disease has been received since 1938. Immunisation against this disease commenced in 1939 and although only 29·7 of the children under five are immunised the percentage among children of school age is 73, a fact which must have some bearing on the complete absence of Diphtheria for seven years.

Non-notifiable Infectious Diseases among school children.

Mumps	...	...	...	8
Chicken Pox	...	...	...	90
Ringworm	...	...	...	1
Scabies	...	...	...	3
German Measles	...	...	...	—
Impetigo	...	...	...	3
Influenza	...	...	...	5
Influenzal Colds	...	...	...	6
Jaundice	...	...	...	5
				121

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR.

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Dysentery ...	1	—	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever...	1	—	—
Smallpox ...	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	39	12	—
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—
Enteric Fever (includ- ing Paratyphoid) ...	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	2	2	2
Pneumonia ...	—	—	—
Erysipelas ...	1	—	—
Encephalitis	—	—	—
Lethargica ...	1	1	1
Poliomyelitis ...	—	—	—
Ophthalmia	—	—	—
Neonatorum ...	—	—	—
Measles ...	80	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	3	—	—
Totals ...	128	15	3

AGE AT DATE OF NOTIFICATION.

Age.	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Enteric Fever	Puerperal Pyrexia	Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Whooping Cough	Measles	Cerebro Spinal Fever	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Dysentery	Encephalitis Lethargica
Under 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	4	—	—	—	—
1 and under 2	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	10	—	—	—	—
2 „ 3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	—	—	—	—
3 „ 4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	—
4 „ 5	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	—	—	—	—
5 „ 10	17	—	—	—	—	—	—	43	—	—	—	1
10 „ 15	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—
15 „ 20	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20 „ 35	6	—	—	2	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
35 „ 45	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
45 „ 65	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 and over	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	39	—	—	2	—	1	3	80	1	—	1	1

TUBERCULOSIS.

AGE PERIODS.	Totals.	New Cases.				Totals.	Deaths.			
		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary			Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
		M	F	M	F		M	F	M	F
0 and under 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 " " 5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 " " 10	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
10 " " 15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 " " 20	2	1	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	—
20 " " 25	1	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
25 " " 35	8	7	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
35 " " 45	4	3	1	—	—	2	2	—	—	—
45 " " 55	1	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
55 " " 65	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
Total ...*	19	12	3	3	1	‡6	5	1	—	—

*Included in this total are two transfers from the mainland.

‡Includes one information from Death Returns.